

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

Claims 11-18 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 11-15 and 17-18 Under the Judicially Created Doctrine of Obviousness-type Double Patenting as Being Unpatentable Over Claim 7 of U.S. Patent 6,214,426

Claims 11-15 and 17-18 are rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of U.S. Patent 6,214,426. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

Attached to this reply, please find a terminal disclaimer disclaiming any portion of a patent that results from this application that extends beyond the term of U.S. Patent 6,214,426. Applicants believe that with this terminal disclaimer that the rejection has been obviated. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

With the above remarks, it is believed that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.


Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

BS  
MSW/TBS/mua

By

 #28977  
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

 P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

Attachments: Terminal Disclaimer Transmittal  
Terminal Disclaimer